

Ten Ways To Discover, Gather, and Share Family History Stories

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(Note: many ideas and references specify Latter-day Saint sites and resources)

1. Create accounts, fill in information, and add memories on any or all of the following: [FamilySearch](#) (free account), [Ancestry](#), [MyHeritage](#), or [Findmypast](#). Explore other sites that you would like to use. Begin with what you know personally and write and record those stories. See step-by-step instructions for using these sites on [The Family history Guide](#). Add audio stories to a [photo or document](#) on FamilySearch.

2. Interview living family members and others (formally and informally).

Ask questions, record and preserve your conversations or formal interviews. Check out [The 52 Stories Project](#) for weekly ideas for questions. For ways to preserve interviews on FamilySearch, see [Explore the Memories App For iOS and Android](#), [The Family Tree App](#), and [10 Apps for Capturing and Sharing Your Family's Story](#). Read more [here](#). Watch [this video](#) for ideas.



3. Search family repositories, archives, and collections.

Diaries, letters, postcards, scrapbooks, photos, baby books and other passed-down items from trunks, closets, and attics hold “everyday life” details and stories you won’t find anywhere else. Go through your house (and your relatives’ houses, if they’ll let you) for these home sources and examine them for stories and story clues. Watch [this video](#) to see how one man discovered his grandfather through a box of photos and a movie reel that was given to him. Read more in this article: [Gather Family Information](#).



4. Discover what stories are already preserved on-line. Check out the family history sites on which you have an account to see what has been uploaded. On FamilySearch, check out the profile page for an ancestor which includes these tabs: ABOUT, DETAILS, SOURCES, COLLABORATE, AND MEMORIES. Read more in [What is included on the Person page in Family Tree?](#).

Brief Life History of Orson

When Orson Clark was born on 11 October 1892, in Freedom, Lincoln, Wyoming, United States, his father, Arthur Benjamin Clark, was 38 and his mother, Helen Margaret Ross, was 38. He married May Catherine Rasmussen on 9 June 1920, in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, United States. They were the parents of at least 5 sons and 1 daughter. He lived in Freedom, Uinta, Wyoming, United States in 1900 and Salt Lake, Utah, United States in 1930. He died on 9 January 1972, in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, United States, at the age of 79, and was buried in Millcreek Cemetery, Millcreek, Salt Lake, Utah, United States.

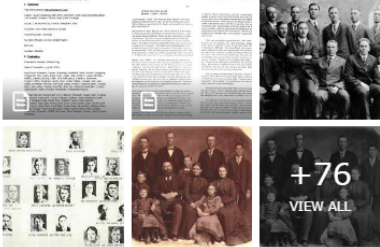
[MORE](#)

This life history was computer-generated. It is based on the information on the Details tab. To change it, edit the data on the [Details](#) tab. [Learn more](#)

Parents and Siblings

**Arthur Benjamin Clark**
1854–1917 • Male

Photos and Memories (81)



+76
[VIEW ALL](#)

Do you know Orson? Do you have a story about him that you would like to share? [Write a story](#)

Spouse and Children

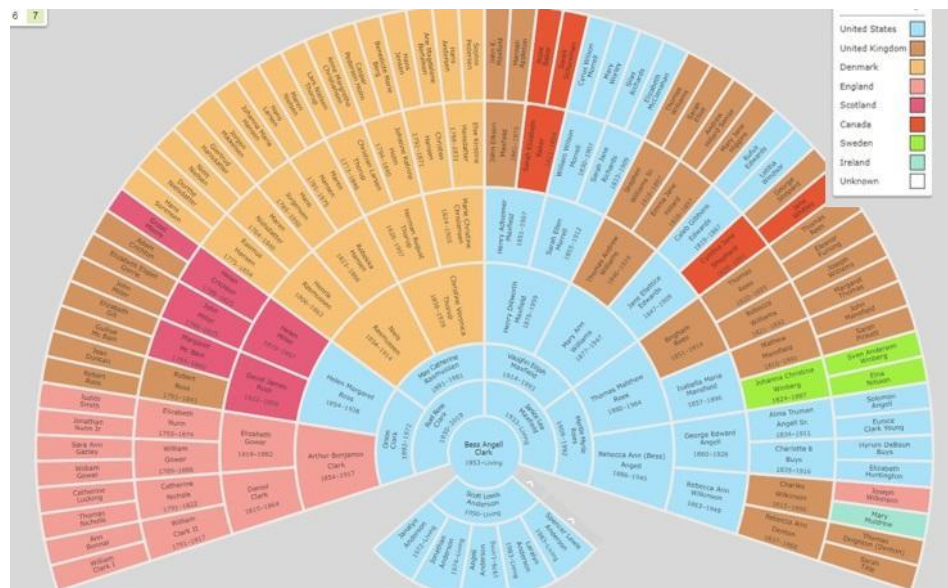
**Orson Clark**
1892–1972 • Male

**May Catherine Rasmussen**
1891–1981 • Female

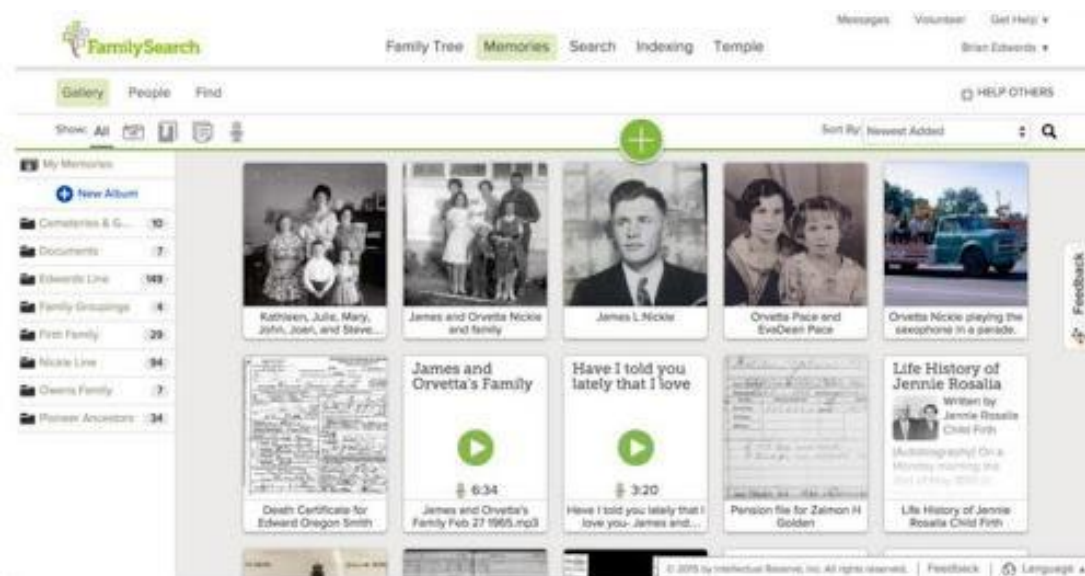
Time Line

- 1892 • Birth • Age 0**
11 October 1892
Freedom, Lincoln, Wyoming, United States
- 1900 • Baptism • Age 8**
12 October 1900
- 1914 • Mission • Age 21**
1914
Hawaii, United States
- Emigration • Age 21**
25 September 1914
- 1920 • Sealed to spouse • Age 27**

Use the FamilySearch [Fan chart](#) to view family lines, countries of origin, research helps, photos, stories, and temple information. Learn more about the fan chart [here](#).



See [Memories-FamilySearch](#), [Histories, Memories & Biographies - MyHeritage](#), and [Stories, Memories & Histories -Ancestry](#). See also [Add Stories: FamilySearch Project 2, Goal 8](#) in The Family History Guide.



See [Building Storytelling Opportunities with FamilySearch](#) for more ideas.

Check out any of the following pages from The Family History Guide to help you find your family stories:

FamilySearch	Ancestry	MyHeritage	FindMyPast
1. Family Tree	1. Get Started	1. Account	1. Account
2. Memories	2. Family Tree	2. Family Tree	2. Family Tree
3. Descendancy	3. Docs, Stories, Photos	3. Docs, Photos	3. Docs, Photos
4. Discover	4. Research	4. Research	4. Research
5. Indexing	5. Help	5. Help	5. Help
6. Help	6. Technology	6. Technology	6. Technology
7. Technology	7. DNA	7. DNA	
8. DNA			

5. Subscribe to email notifications for [FamilySearch](#), [Ancestry](#), [MyHeritage](#), or [Findmypast](#). You can select to receive these on your computer or mobile device. Also, on the FamilySearch homepage, you can see contributions of others to sort through to find family stories.

6. Use a variety of on-line research options to find stories or information you can gather to create stories: [historical records](#), [Newspapers](#), [Census Records](#), [Naturalization Records](#), [US Passenger Arrival Records of Immigration Ships](#), [Saints by Sea](#), [Church History Biographical Database](#), [Church History](#), [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#), [Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company Financial Accounts \(Worldwide\), 1849-1886](#), [National Archives Catalog Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians](#), [FamilySearch Digital Library](#), [Historical and Genealogical Societies](#), [Places to Look for Engaging Details about Your Ancestors](#), [10 Google search techniques for](#)

[family history research](#), [Stories, Memories & Histories on Ancestry](#), [MyHeritage Book Matching](#), [Here's How to Find Tens of Thousands of Family History Books for Free](#), [FamilySearch Digital Library / Browse collections from libraries all over the world](#), [Find a Grave](#), and other sites to find information to piece together and write a story from what you gather about your ancestors.

Note : Be aware of copyright issues if you are using a published source for a story.



7. Check out these sites on [FamilySearch Discovery](#):

A. [FamilySearch.org/Pioneer](#)

Ever wonder what circumstances the early pioneers in your own family (if you have any) endured to reach Zion (the Salt Lake Valley)? Finding the answer is fun and easy. Learn more [here](#).



B. Your Relatives In Nauvoo

In 1839 the Saints settled in Commerce, Illinois, along the Mississippi River. Joseph renamed the settlement Nauvoo. Here the Saints lived in tents and wagons while they built homes, drained swampland, plotted streets, and cultivated fields. They built a temple. Was your relative one of these?

Your Relative Heeded the Call of the Prophet to Come to Nauvoo

Solomon Angell
1806-1881
KWJC-BHX
[See His Page](#)
[View Relationship](#)

Lived in Nauvoo around
Age 33-38
BYU Nauvoo Community Project

Pioneer Trek
Age 42
[View Pioneer Page](#)

Died at
Age 75
Leeds, Washington, Utah, United States
[View Headstone](#)

• 8 of 10 •

Prophet in Liberty Jail | Saints Arrive in Commerce IL | Relief Society Formed | Joseph and Hyrum Martyred | Nauvoo Temple dedicated | Saints Begin Trek west

C. Women of Faith

These fearless women showed leadership and dedication through the lives they lived. Read their stories of bravery and indomitable spirit and celebrate these amazing women.

Your relative was a part of a legacy of faithful women

Discover Her Story

Amanda Buys
1844-1920
KWJC-BHX
[View Relationship](#)

She was mentioned in important records in early church history.
[Pioneer Trek](#)
[BYU Nauvoo Project](#)

• 19 of 20 •

Church is Organized | Relief Society Founded | First Pioneer Crossing | Salt Lake Tabernacle Completed | First Women Missionaries

Amanda Buys 1844-1920

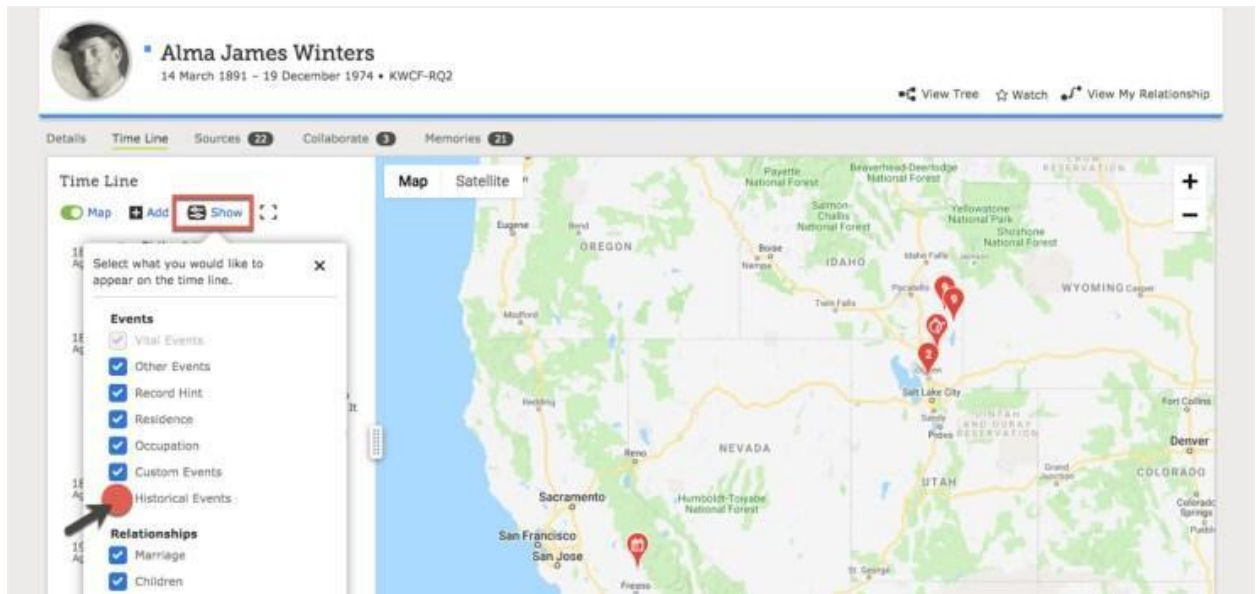
D. Early Missionaries



E. How to Discover Your Ancestor's Occupation



F. Historical Events - the timeline feature on your ancestor's person page on FamilySearch will help you make discoveries about your ancestors' life events.



You can see up to eight historical events on the timeline. The historical events are randomly selected, but they give additional insights into what your ancestors might have experienced. You can also add **customized historical events** such as church history or family events that you select. Click on the **Show** button to filter which events and relationships you would like to view including. If an event is a relationship that involves another relative in your family tree, that relative's picture and information will show up as well! Record hints may be included in their correct chronological place along the timeline, such as this hint for a birth record. You can also toggle the **Map** function inside the timeline tab to view a map beside the information. Here, markers show you where these events in your ancestors' lives took place.

8. Check out the [All The Stories Site](#) - a free way to synchronize with FamilySearch and download the stories of your direct ancestors and their siblings back 9 generations. A searchable list of any story placed on the tree along with how you are related to that person, and how long the story takes to tell!

All the Stories Home

Search for a story...

I Married the Enemy0min

Life in Hjørring Denmark2min

Soren Olesen 1791-18720min

OLE CHRISTOPHER OLSEN 1825-1906 by Burton K. [Bertus C.] Olsen (G. grandson of Ole)42min

Soren Olsen Life Story18min

Dennison Emer Harris History5min

Martin Lott Harris and Venka Larsen20min

Biography of John Joseph Hayes11min

Dennison Emer Harris and Eunice Stewart Harris1min

How Ralph Acts When Home Alone1min

EMER HARRIS LIFE STORY7min

Cora Thornton Hayes6min

Rachel Moore's Memories of Ralph Phipps4min

You can click the stories on the left to start reading them, or click the "synchronize" button to re-sync with familysearch. Last synchronized 12/20/2015, 4:39:01 PM

Synchronize

Stories in your Family Tree

1834-191278

Daniel Thompson

Your mother's 3rd great-grandfather

Born: Markham, York, Ontario, Canada

Died: Scipio, Millard, Utah, United States

History of Lorinda Elizabeth Bronson8min

Delete a

9. Create sacred places and spaces to encourage family storytelling. These could include events, road trips to family history sites, daily rituals, drives and shuttling, family get-togethers, parties, celebrations, cemetery visits, hospital visits, reunions, etc.. Watch [this video](#) for inspiration. See [In-Home Activities](#) and The Family History Guides's [Activities](#) for links to hundreds of ways to get your family sharing family stories. See [more ideas](#) from The Family History Guide, and [this list](#) of related Rootstech and FamilySearch videos. See also [Family History Activities To Supercharge Your Family Reunion • RootsTech](#)

Google Maps/Google Earth

To encourage the telling of stories, view and share memories of family history sites, travels, missions, houses, (countries, counties, etc.) and places where family members have lived (or now live) using [Google Earth](#) and [Street View Stories](#). For more fun (and for research), use The Family History Guide Countries page along with Google Earth ([see this blog post](#)). See [Ways to Use Google Earth for Genealogy and Family History](#).



10. Collaborate With Others On-line on family history sites, family group chats, virtual get-togethers and meetings, social media, etc.. See [Collaboration: It's About Sharing](#) and Kathryn Grant's webinar for the BYU Family History Library: [Collaborating in Family Tree](#). Learn about collaborating on Ancestry [here](#), and on MyHeritage [here](#).

Social media can be used to connect with family to share text, photos, videos and other media. Queries posted on social media websites may be answered by individuals living in a local town, researching the same surnames, or by someone who may have resources available to help you. Connections can lead to stories! Read more: [Hashtags, Tweets, and Blogs: the New Language of Family History](#) and [here](#).

See also:

[Laughter and Love: Using Virtual Reunions to Reconnect Your Family • RootsTech](#)

